

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3541

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0152

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SO, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH SIAD

REF: STATE 12770

1. PRESIDENT SIAD SUMMONED ME TO PRESIDENCY THIS MORNING JANUARY 27 IN RESPONSE MY REQUEST OF A WEEK AGO TO MEET WITH HIM. I SPENT TWO HOURS WITH HIM IN DISCUSSION OF NUMBER OF SUBJECTS -- ALL RAISED ON HIS INITIATIVE -- OF WHICH ANGOLA WAS ONLY THE INTRODUCTORY TOPIC.

2. SIAD LISTENED WITH INTEREST AS I WENT OVER POINTS RAISED IN PARA 2 REFTEL REGARDING ANGOLA, FOLLOWING WHICH HE LAUNCHED INTO DISCUSSION OF SOMALI POLICY ON ANGOLA WHICH PARALLELED ALMOST PRECISELY COMMENTS HE HAD MADE ON DEC 5 WITH AMBASSADOR (MOGADISCIO 1722).

3. HE AGREED THAT AFRICANS THEMSELVES MUST FIND SOLUTION BUT WAS PESSIMISTIC THEY WOULD. SOMALIA HAD RECOGNIZED MPLA BECAUSE NETO WAS ONLY GENUINE LEADER AND MPLA ONLY LIBERATION MOVEMENT WHICH GENUINELY REPRESENTED INTERESTS OF ANGOLAN MASSES. HOLDEN ROBERTO IS MOBUTU'S STOOGE AND UNITA'S SAVIMBI WAS ORIGINALLY CREATURE OF PORTUGUESE SECURITY WHO WAS USED BY PIDE TO DIVIDE MPLA RANKS EARLIER AND WHO WAS NOW TOOL OF IMPERIALISTS LED BY SOUTH AFRICA. HE PARTICULARLY DISPISED ROBERTO, HE SAID, BECAUSE ROBERTO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PORTUGUESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THIS WAS CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY, ETC.

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4. HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO LEARN THAT US SUPPORTED AFRICAN SOLUTION AND WAS NOT OPPOSED PER SE TO MPLA. HE WAS OF OPINION THAT ALL FOREIGN INTERLOPERS SHOULD GO INCLUDING MERCENARIES, SOUTH AFRICANS, RUSSIANS, AND FINALLY CUBANS, AND THAT ANGOLAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES SHOULD THEN DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

5. HE TOO WOULD SUPPORT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION BUT HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW THAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED. ANGOLA WAS GEOGRAPHICALLY REMOTE FROM SOMALIA ON AFRICA'S WEST COAST AND WAS NOT RPT NOT VITAL TO SOMALIA'S SECURITY OR EVEN ITS INTERESTS. SOMALIA'S SUPPORT FOR MPLA WAS MADE IN DEFERENCE TO A MOVEMENT WHICH GENUINELY REPRESENTED ANGOLAN PEOPLES' INTERESTS AS FLNA AND UNITA DID NOT. HE THOUGHT THAT AFRICANS THEMSELVES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DIVIDED ON ANGOLA, EACH PURSUING ITS OWN SPECIAL INTERESTS -- THE WAY MOBUTU WAS PURSUING HIS -- AND HE DID NOT SEE QUICK OR EASY END TO PROBLEM.

6. WHILE HE THOUGHT SOVIET UNION AND US SHOULD KEEP THEIR QUARRELS OUT OF AFRICA, IN THIS CASE HE COULD ONLY SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW FIND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY THOSE OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE. THIS WAS ONLY FORMULA HE COULD OFFER IN VIEW OF AFRICAN DIVERSION ON SUBJECT.

7. SIAD SAID HE APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY FOR ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH WASHINGTON. HE THEN TOLD ME HE HAD MORE PRESSING CONCERNS HIMSELF IN THIS AREA OF WORLD, INCLUDING ETHIOPIA, DECOLONIZATION OF FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISAS, US PROPAGANDA RE SOVIET QTD BASE AT CHISIMAYU UNQTE AND US PERCEPTION OF SIAD AS SOVIET STOOGEHAND OVER NEXT TWO HOURS HE MANAGED TO GET MOST OF THOSE BURDENS OFF HIS CHEST. HE MADE DIRECT APPEAL FOR HELP OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY IN RESOLVING POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN DJIBOUT IN WHICH IN HIS WORDS COULD BRING ON ANOTHER ANGOLA IN HORN. HIS APPEAL SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.

HAMRICK

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